

ADVERTISING RINGS ON POSTAL STATIONERY

While not coming strictly under the heading of "Security Endorsements", embossed stationery with firms names contained in a ring around the stamps cannot be overlooked.

Only the fact that the Post Office frowned upon anything resembling advertising on their material caused their discontinuance. They did, however, serve the double purpose of advertising the firms concerned and of offering some form of protection for their postal stationery.

This type of stationery was in use between 1855 and 1894. they are rarely met with in complete envelope form, being generally cut from the envelope. They are even quite scarce cut square, i.e. with a square margin of paper around the round, but are more commonly found with all marginal paper cut away so that the stamps are "cut-to-shape".

Here is a check list of the known types and users:-

1d Pink

(a) On white paper.

Allsop & Sons.
"British Workman".
Collier & Co., Plymouth.
Frank E. Millar
Gas Light & Coke Company.
George Farniloe & Sons, London.
George Prior.
James Adams, Sons & Co.
Martin Wells & Co., Aldershot.
Office of "The Philatelic Quarterly".
Parkins & Gotto.
Paul & Son.
Pawson & Co.
Phoenix Gas Light & Coke Company.
Publishers of the Permanent Stamp Album.
Silver & Co's Circular.
Smith Elder & Co. (Small die)
Smith Elder & Co. (Large die)
Stafford, Smith & Smith. (Queen Square)
Stafford, Smith & Smith. (13 George St.)
Stevens & Norton. (Small die)
The Home News.
Thomas Lea & Co.
W. H. Smith & Son (Dated die)
W. H. Smith & Son (Undated)
William Lincoln.
W & T. Avery, Birmingham.
Young & Stockall.

(b) On blue paper.

Stafford, Smith & Smith.
Young & Stockall.

White Paper

1½d brown	W.H. Smith & Son. W. Lincoln.
2d blue	W.H. Smith & Son.
2½d purple	Rosenheim & Co., London. William Lincoln.
3d carmine	Smith Elder & Co. W.H. Smith & Son. S.W. Silver & Co's Circular. "The Home News". Grindley & Co., London. Stafford, Smith & Smith. Young & Stockall. William Lincoln.
4d vermillion	Smith Elder & Co. W.H. Smith & Son. Borne & Son. "The British Workman" Stafford, Smith & Smith. Young & Stockall. William Lincoln.
6d violet	Smith Elder & Co. W.H. Smith & Son. George Prior, London. William Lincoln. Stafford, Smith & Smith. Young & Stockall.
1/- green	Smith Elder & Co. W.H. Smith & Son. Stafford, Smith & Smith. William Lincoln. Young & Stockall.

Compound Envelopes

2d purple + 1½d brown	W.H. Smith & Son.
1/- green + 4d vermillion	Smith Elder & Co.

Government Official Embossed Envelopes

On Her Majesty's Service.

Post Office
Inland Revenue.
Admiralty.
Attorney-General.
Board of Trade.
Commissioner of Police.
Companies Office.
Colonial Office.
Department of Science & Art.
Director of Public Prosecutions.
Foreign Office.
Home Office.
India Office.
The Lord Chancellor.
National Education, Ireland.
Paymaster-General.
Public Works, Ireland.
Registrar-General.
Registrar of Friendly Societies.
Trade Marks.
Royal Courts of Justice.
Secretary of State.
Solicitor-General.
Treasury.
H.M. Office of Works.
Pay Office Supreme Court.
Civil Service Commission.
Telegraph.
Adjutant-General's Office.
Inspector of Reformatory Schools.

All the above are hand-stamped "Official Paid" in red.

Unofficial Advertising Rings Privately Added to Postal Stationery

1d pink

On White Paper.

L. Lumley & Co., London	Band in blue
J. Watkin & Son, Northampton	Band in blue
W.B. Fordham & Sons	Band in blue
Thomas Sheppard & Co.	Band in blue
W. Chillingworth & Son	Band in green
J.A. Tanner & Co., Hull	Band in red
International Fur Store	Band in red
Thomas Lea & Co.	Band in blue
Parkins & Gotto	Band in green
William Lincoln	Band in blue
Alldays & Onions	Band in blue

PROOF AND TELEGRAPHIC PUNCTURES

By C. Jennings

Occasionally there are found stamps punctured with a circular hole or with a cross-shaped piece of paper punched out. Even more occasionally one finds them with postmarks.

When an advertiser in the stamp booklets has submitted "Copy" to the printers it is usual to send him a proof so that he may that the work is satisfactory and that no errors have occurred. The proof takes the form of a complete book of stamps with the holes, or crosses, punched through the stamps to render them invalid. Some recipients of these booklets have apparently, at various times, applied the stamps to mail and they have passed through the post undetected. I have both the 1911 and 1913 ½d values thus used in my collection, both with single large circular holes punched through the stamp.

Much more scarce are the high value George V "Sea-Horse" stamps with the cross-shaped puncture. As these values were not issued in booklet form there has been some speculation as to their origin.

On August 15th 1919 the following circular was sent to Chief Post Offices,

"In view of the frequent surreptitious removals of the high value Postage Stamps from Telegraph Forms, it has been decided, after experiment at certain selected offices, that the stamps of 2/6d and upwards in value shall be clipped at Post Office counters by means of special appliances, in order to destroy the philatelic value, before being issued to the public to be affixed to the Telegraph Forms. Two pairs of the appliances will shortly be issued. The stamp should be slightly folded before being clipped, in order that the perforation may be made about the middle of the stamp".

Far from achieving the Post Office's intention of destroying the philatelic value of these stamps, the process seems to have whetted the appetite of collectors who must have been among the first "perfin" enthusiasts. At Nottingham, through misinterpreting his circular, the Postmaster caused all his high value stamps to be punctured for all postal purposes as well as telegraphic. He was promptly ordered to cease this practice.

It was also possible for firms to purchase high value stamps for use on Telegraph Forms and it is highly probable that some of these stamps were used for postal purposes contrary to regulations.

The practise of punching a piece out of a stamp was adopted in the Foreign Telegraph Branch of the G.P.O as early as 1915. Prior to this the stamps had been "blacked-out". Early

experiments showed that it was advisable to puncture the stamps before affixing to the Telegraph Forms as this process did not interfere with the message. From 1919 to 1921 a number of offices carrying a large volume of telegraphic business were supplied with puncturing appliances and, in 1921, the practice was extended to a number of other offices. There seems to be no information regarding the date of withdrawal of puncturing devices for telegraphic purposes.

It is interesting to reflect that these stamps, by their very scarcity today, have completely made negative the Post Office's original intention of rendering them valueless to collectors.

Copies recorded postally used bear postmarks of Nottingham, Chatham, and Newmarket and mint examples are stated to have been purchased at Manchester Post Office.

Other examples of this "punching" occur on postal stationery of the late Victorian period but reference to these will be found in a later section on the Board of Trade punches and perfins.